

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 14, 2006 and the Office Communication dated December 1, 2006. Claims 1 to 29 remain in the application, with Claims 13 to 29 having been withdrawn, and Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11 and 12 having been amended herein. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims currently under consideration. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative in the telephone message left on December 15, 2006, in which it was indicated that the non-responsive Amendment filed on September 16, 2006 had been stricken. Accordingly, the present Amendment is made with reference to the most recently entered Listing of Claims (*i.e.*, the Claims as originally filed on February 18, 2004).

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 9, 11 and 12 have been amended herein to further clarify the invention. No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment, as the subject matter in these Amended Claims is fully supported by the original disclosure including, for example, paragraphs [0036] and [0037] and Figure 2.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,797 ("Kamper"); and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kamper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing claim rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action, together with the applied reference, and respectfully submits that the new claims are patentably distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the following reasons.

The present invention generally concerns configuring computing devices. With reference to the particular claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing

system including a first computing device having a memory, an expansion port, and a processor. The data processing system further includes an electronic memory device including an image stored therein and configured to be coupled to the expansion port. The image includes data stored therein for configuring a second computing device. The processor is configured to acquire the image from the electronic memory device, distribute the acquired image over a connection network to the second computing device, and load the distributed image into a memory of the second computing device to configure the second computing device.

Amended independent Claim 7 is directed to a computing device including a connection network configured to provide a communications path, a memory coupled to the connection network and configured to store program code, a processor coupled to the connection network and configured to execute the stored program code, an expansion port configured to receive a removable storage device coupled thereto, and an input/output controller coupled to the connection network and to the expansion port. The processor is configured to acquire image data from the removable storage device, distribute the acquired image data over the connection network to a remote computing device, and load the distributed image data into a memory of the remote computing device to configure the remote computing device.

The applied reference is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of amended independent Claims 1 and 7, particularly with respect to at least the features of (1) a processor configured to acquire an image from an electronic memory device, to distribute the acquired image over a connection network to a second computing device, and to load the distributed image into a memory of the second computing device to configure the second computing device, or (2) a processor configured to acquire image data from a removable storage device, to distribute the acquired image data over a connection network to a remote computing device, and

to load the distributed image data into a memory of the remote computing device to configure the remote computing device.

Kamper is seen to be generally directed to configuring a server with a removable storage device. Specifically, Kamper discloses coupling a smart card to a server and reading configuration data from the smart card to configure the server. *See* Kamper, col. 5, l. 65 – col. 6, l. 5. While Kamper discloses that a removable storage device may be used to configure a plurality of servers (*see* Kamper, col. 5, ll. 20-25), it is necessary to move the same device from server to server (*see* Kamper, col. 5, ll. 15-19), connecting the same removable storage device directly to each of the plurality of servers (*see* Kamper, col. 7, ll. 35-39). This is unlike the present invention, in which a removable storage device or an electronic memory device is attached to a first computing device, an image or image data is acquired therefrom and distributed over a connection network to a second or remote computing device, and the distributed image or image data is loaded into a memory of the second or remote computing device to configure the second or remote computing device. The removable storage device or electronic memory device of the present invention is not moved from the initial server to the second or remote computing device.

Accordingly, Kamper is not seen to disclose, teach or suggest the combination of features of amended independent Claims 1 and 7, which are believed to be in condition for allowance.


The other claims currently under consideration in the application are dependent from independent Claims 1 and 7 discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,
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